

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPR-01 SY-04 AID-05 IO-10 /075 W

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R 270251Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2188

COMUSSGG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0941

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO 22 JAN REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE

1. SITUATION IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE APPEARS MORE SERIOUS THAN REPORTED THROUGH OFFICIAL GVN CHANNELS. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF CURRENT SITUATION IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABE TO CONGEN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE DELIVERED TO US TODAY. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH KIEN TUONG CURRENTLY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US ONLY ON INTERMITTENT BASIS.

2. CHAU THANH DISTRICT AND MOC HOA: FOLLOWING SHELLING OF MOC HOA JAN 18, NVA/VC WARNED NEARBY RESIDENTS TO LEAVE AREA WITHIN FOUR DAYS BECAUSE MOC HOA WOULD BE HEAVILY SHELLLED AT THAT TIME. EARLY MORNING OF JAN 22, MOC HOA WAS HIT BY 80 ROUNDS OF MORTAR WHICH KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED THIRTEEN. ROUNDS WERE FIRED FROM THREE POSITIONS AROUND PROVINCE TOWN, WITH 85MM TUBES

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REPORTEDLY BEING TRANSPORTED BY APC. 5000-8000 OF THE TOWN'S

15,000 RESIDENTS HAVE LEFT AND BUS TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT ONE DAY IN ADVANCE. ALG SCHOOLS CLOSED, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND ORPHANAGES HAVE MOVED TO MY THO. ICCS INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN TEAMS STILL IN MOC HOA AS OF MORNING OF JAN 22, BUT IRANIAN DELEGATE INDICATES HE MAY LEAVE AT ANY TIME.

3. TYEN BINH DISTRICT: ONE BATTALION OF 5TH NVA DIVISION WITH APC'S OVERRAN LONG KHOT OUTPOST ON CAMBODIAN BORDER NIGHT OF JAN 21-22. ONLY TWO OF ORIGINAL SEVEN GVN POSITIONS REMAIN IN DISTRICT--ARTILLERY BASE IN CENTER OF DISTRICT AND SUBSECTOR HEAD-QUARTERS AT DISTRICT TOWN. SECTOR EXPECTS DISTRICT TOWN TO BE NEXT NVA TARGET.

4. KIEN BINH DISTRICT: DISTRICT TOWN HAS RECEIVED FOUR ABF'S SINCE JAN 14 DESTROYING POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND TOWN PAGODA AND HEAVILY DAMAGING PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER AND RF AMMO STORAGE FACILITY. OUT OF ORIGINAL ELEVEN OUTPOSTS AND TWO WATCHTOWERS, THREE OUTPOSTS AND TWO WATCHTOWERS REMAIN UNDER GVN CONTROL. NVA Z-15 AND Z-18 REGIMENTS NOW HAVE ELEMENTS IN DINH TUONG/KIEN TUONG/KIEN PHONG TRI-BORDER AREA AND ALONG CUNG CANAL IN SOUTHERN KIEN BINH, CUTTING OFF RESUPPLY TO OB'S IN TRI PHAP AREA. INTEL SOURCES AVAILABLE TO SECTOR INDICATE Z-18 WILL ATTACK GVN ARTILLERY SITES WHILE ELEMENT OF 5TH NVA DIVISION ATTACKS DISTRICT TOWN.

5. MGEN NAM IS AWARE OF SITUATION, HOWEVER, AND BELIEVES ARVN 9TH DIVISION CAN CONTAIN THREAT TO MOC HOA. TUYEN BINH DISTRICT REMOTE AND MAY NOT GET NECESSARY ASSISTANCE, THOUGH CORPS COMMANDER NOT WRITING IT OFF YET.
MCNAMARA UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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NNN

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